

2024-06-13

Sofia Scholler

Jari Rusanen

Erica Finnerman

Eurostudent 8

Quick results from Sweden



Eurostudent 8 in Sweden

- 40 000 students received an invitation for E8, answers Apr-Aug 2022
combined with register data from Statistics Sweden
Weighting: sex, professional degree or not, age group, field of study, foreign background,
parents' maximum educational level, stratum (fulltime, parttime, foreign student)
- Around 7300 students answered
- Response rate was 18 % – (Eurostudent VII: 20 %)
- Three short reports are published to disseminate the results
 - Discrimination experiences at Swedish universities
 - Mid-life students (there is new student finance for transition and retraining)
 - Students with mental health problems in Sweden

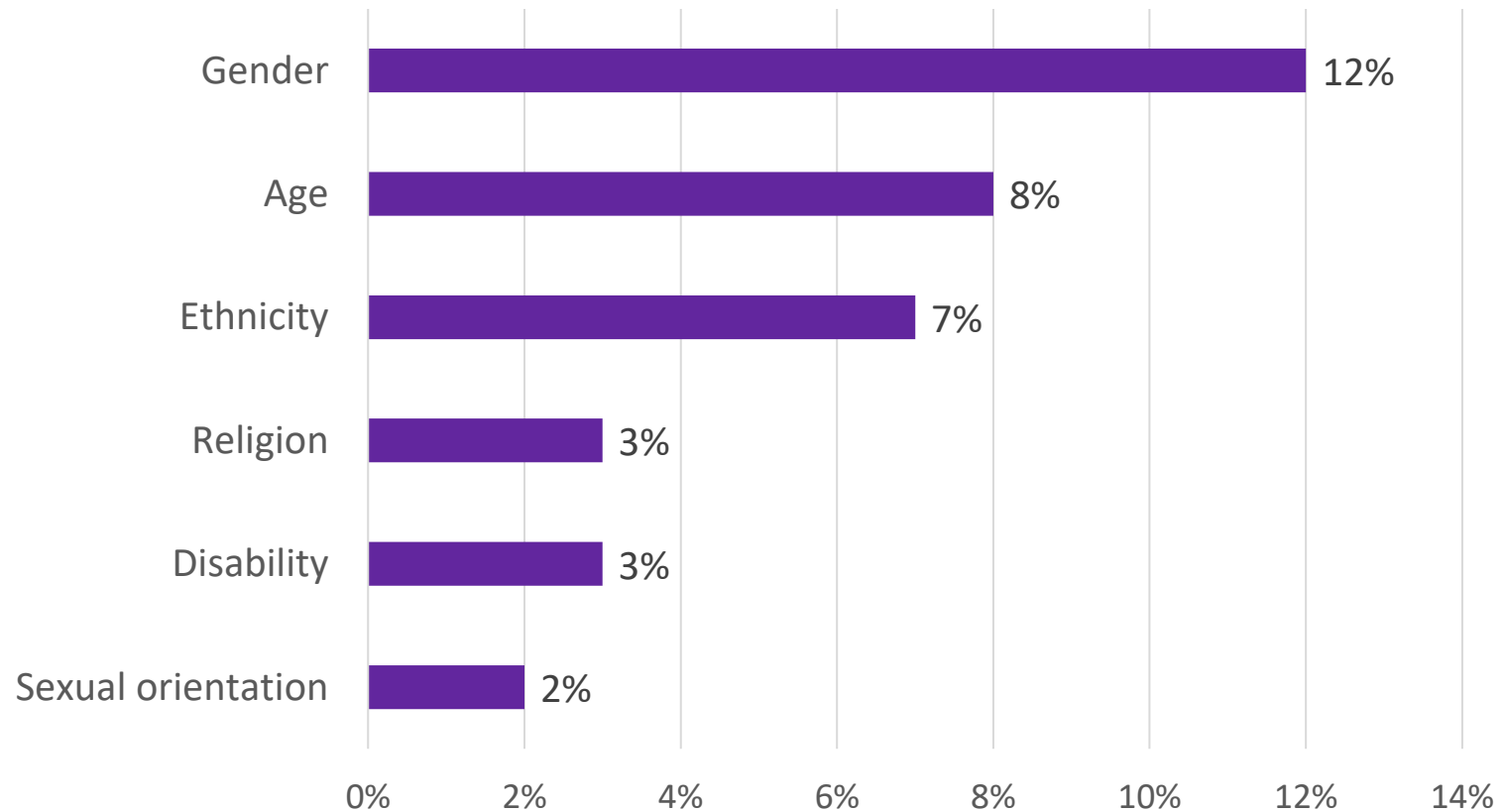
Discrimination experiences at Swedish universities



Analysis

- Swedish grounds of discrimination:
 - Gender
 - Ethnicity
 - Religion
 - Disability
 - Sexual orientation
 - Age
 - Not included in E8: Transgender identity or expression
- 19 percent experienced discrimination

Share of student having experienced discrimination



Students with foreign background

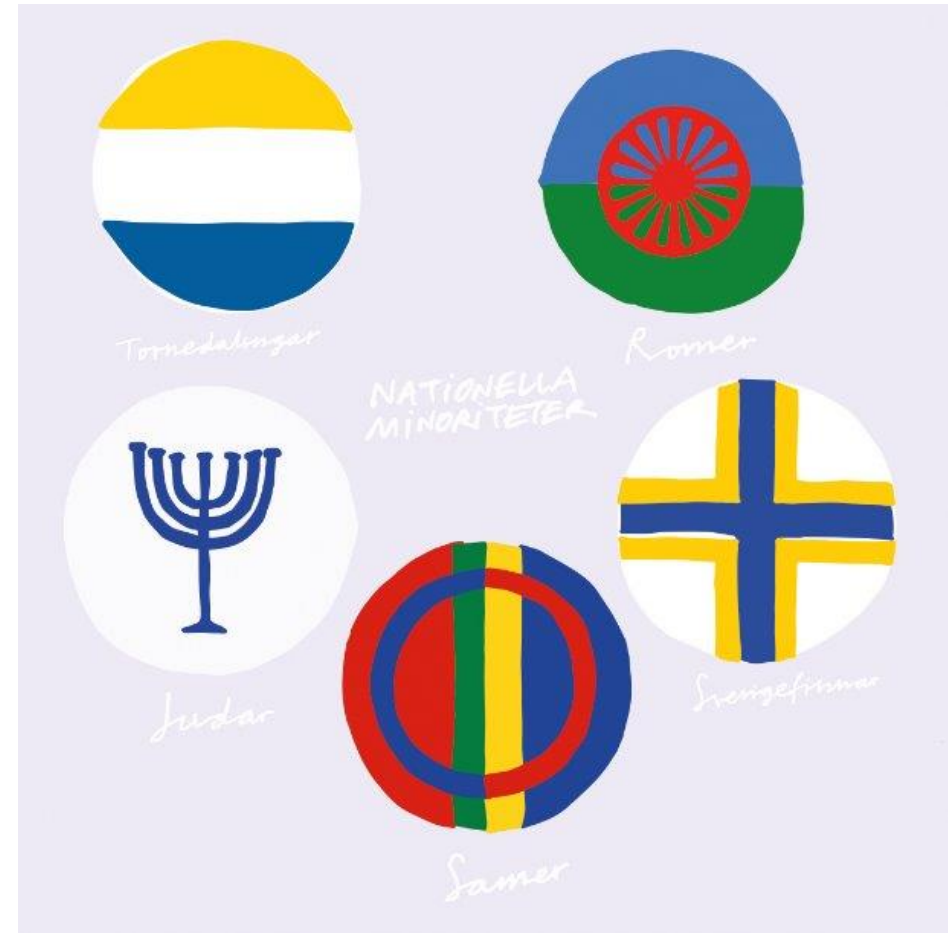
- More discriminated
- More common to experience discrimination based on several discrimination grounds

Work placement

“Im often discriminated during internship. /.../ Supervisors, colleagues and patients have asked me things like ‘when are you going back to your country?’ I love my life in Sweden and plan to live here, such questions hurt and make me feel less welcome. /.../ Patients sometimes are unfriendly when they dont get a Swedish person helping them.”

Students from Sweden's national minorities and their experiences studying in higher education

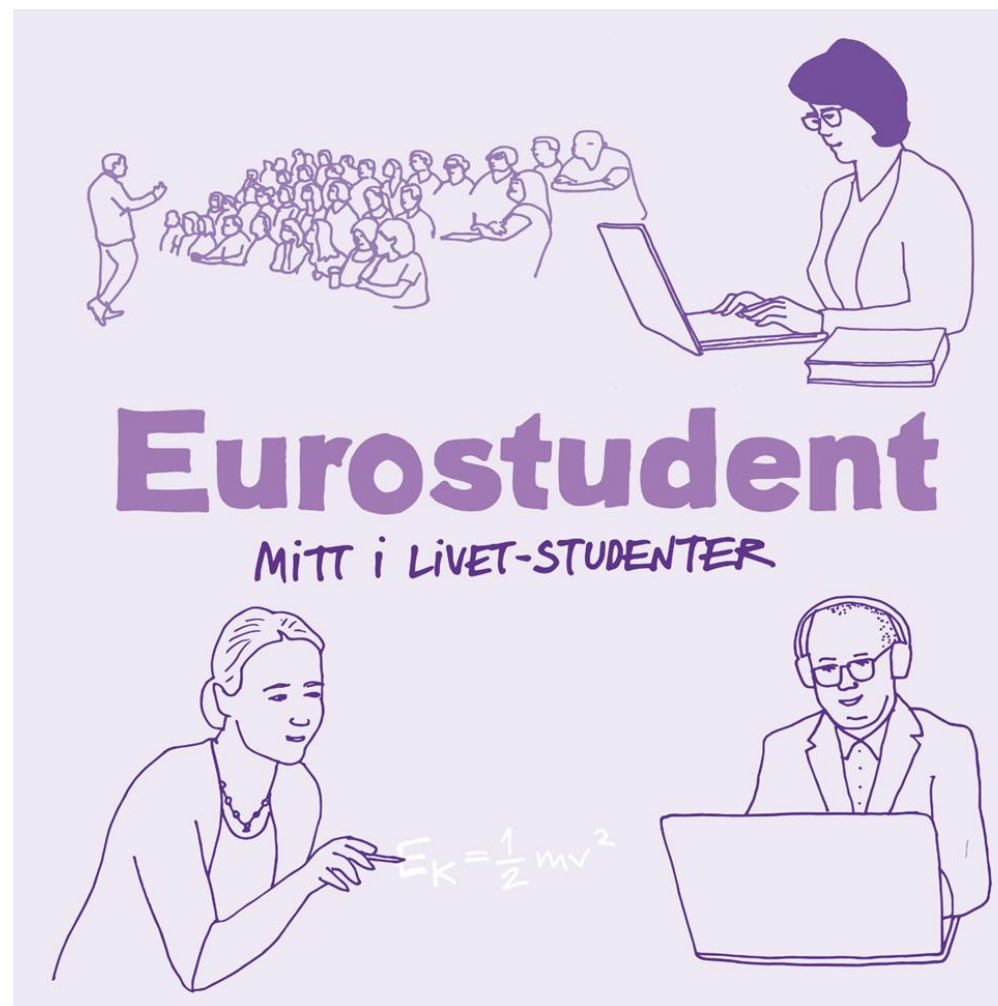
- Jews
- Roma
- Sámi
- Sweden Finns
- Tornedalians



Main results

- University better than earlier in the education system
- Often first in the family to go to university
- Harassment from other students
- Lack of knowledge
- Education in minority languages
- Highlighting the national minority groups at the universities

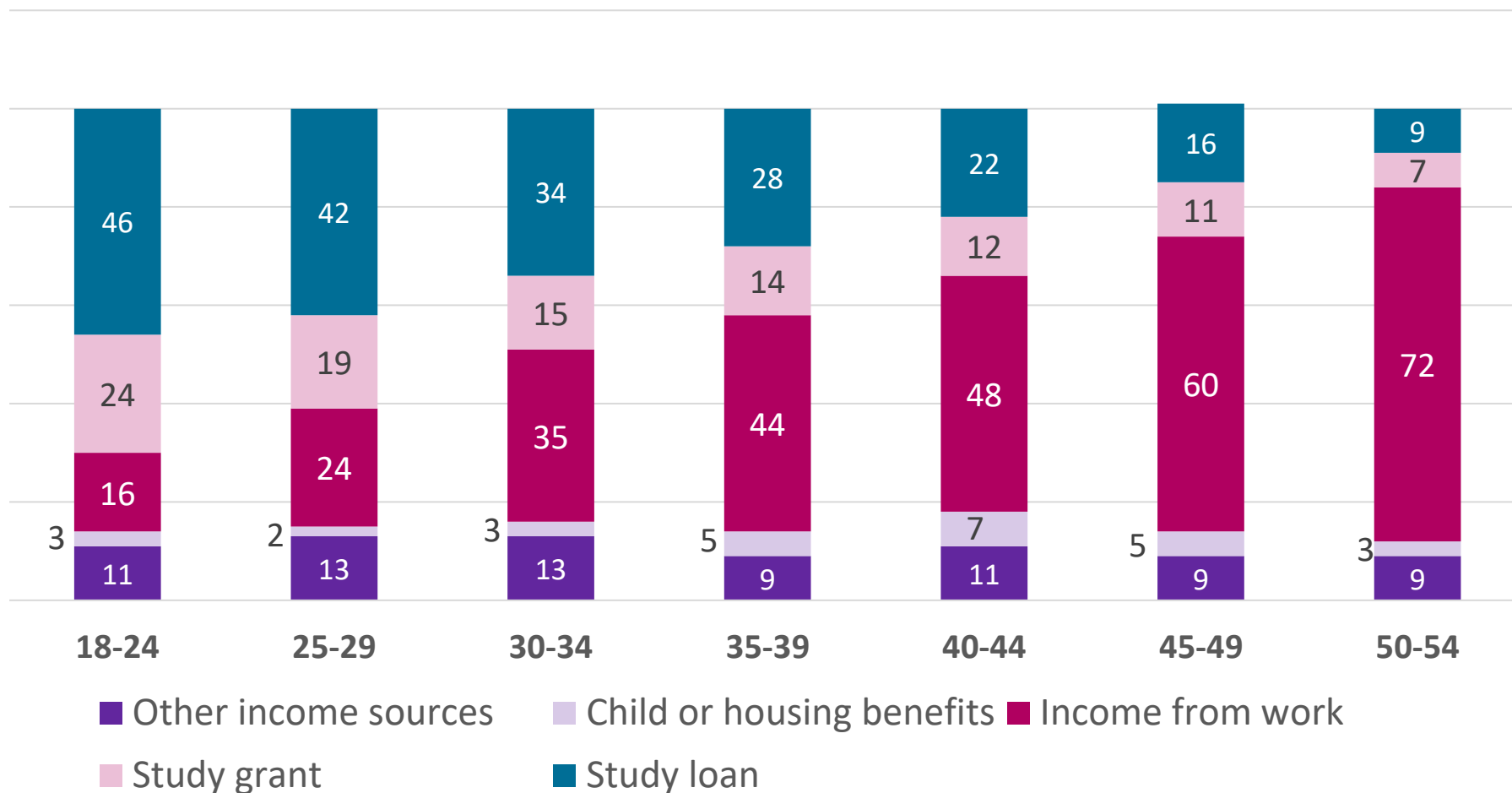
Mid-life students



Mid-life students (35-54 years old)

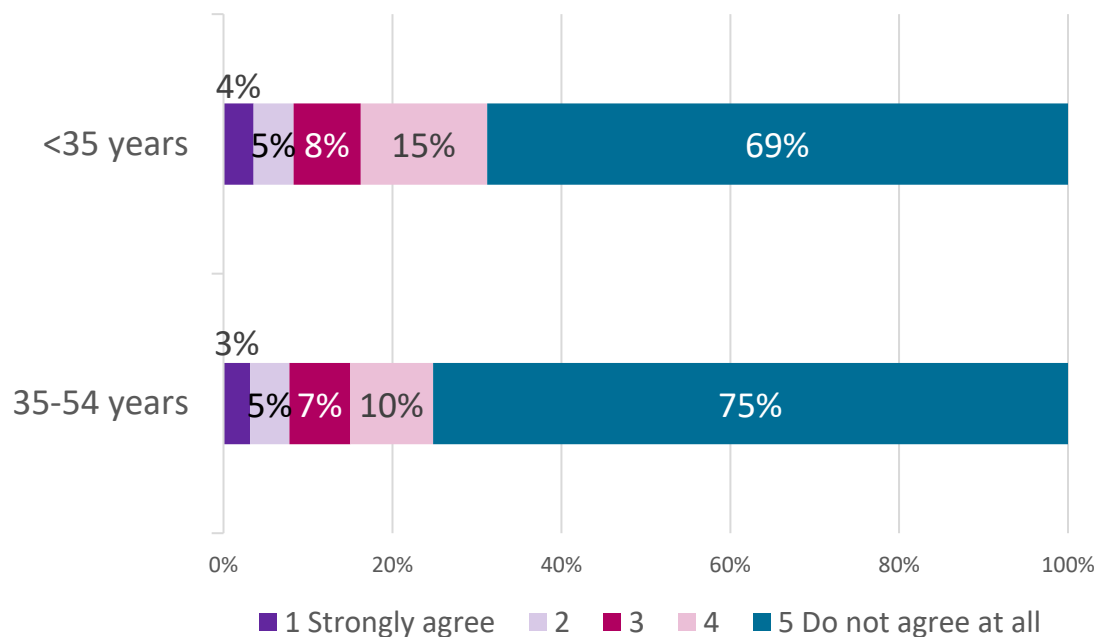
- Nearly every fifth student in Sweden is mid-life. 70 % of them are women.
- Mid-life students earn significantly more money than younger students, but still have more financial problems. They have more often problems to pay an unexpected required expense of 700 EUR.
- More than one third of mid-life students study part-time. The majority do distance learning. Half of mid-life students consider themselves primarily as workers.
- Of students in mid-life, 18% report having a mental health problem, for students under 35 the proportion is 29%.

Mid-life students (35-54 years) – income sources per age group (%)

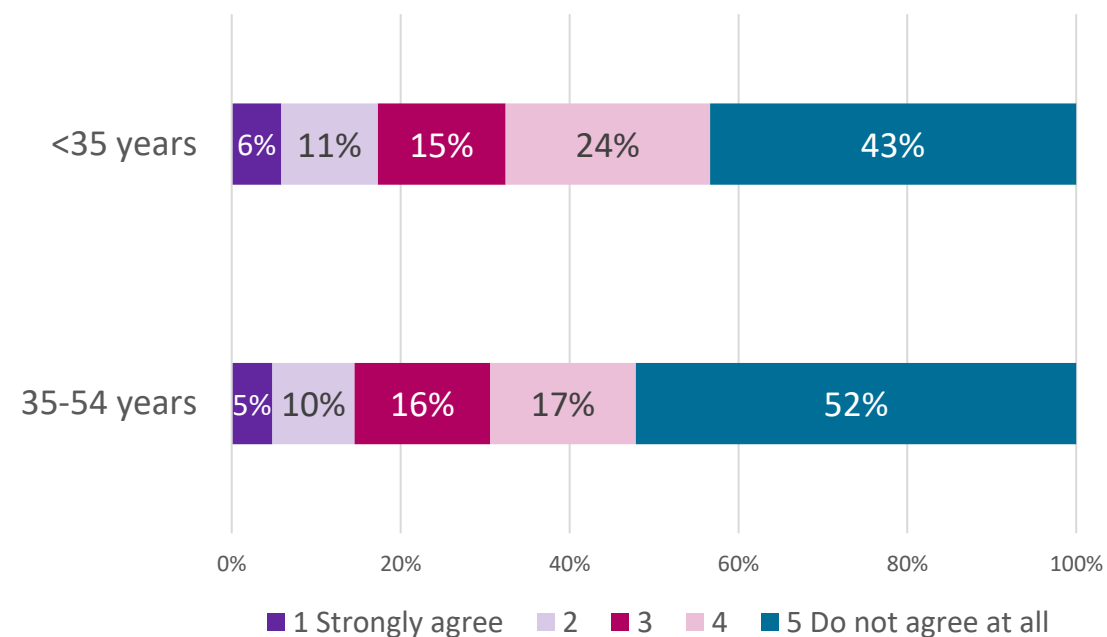


Mid-life students (35-54 years) – feeling of belonging

I am seriously thinking of completely abandoning my higher education studies



I often have the feeling that I don't really belong in higher education

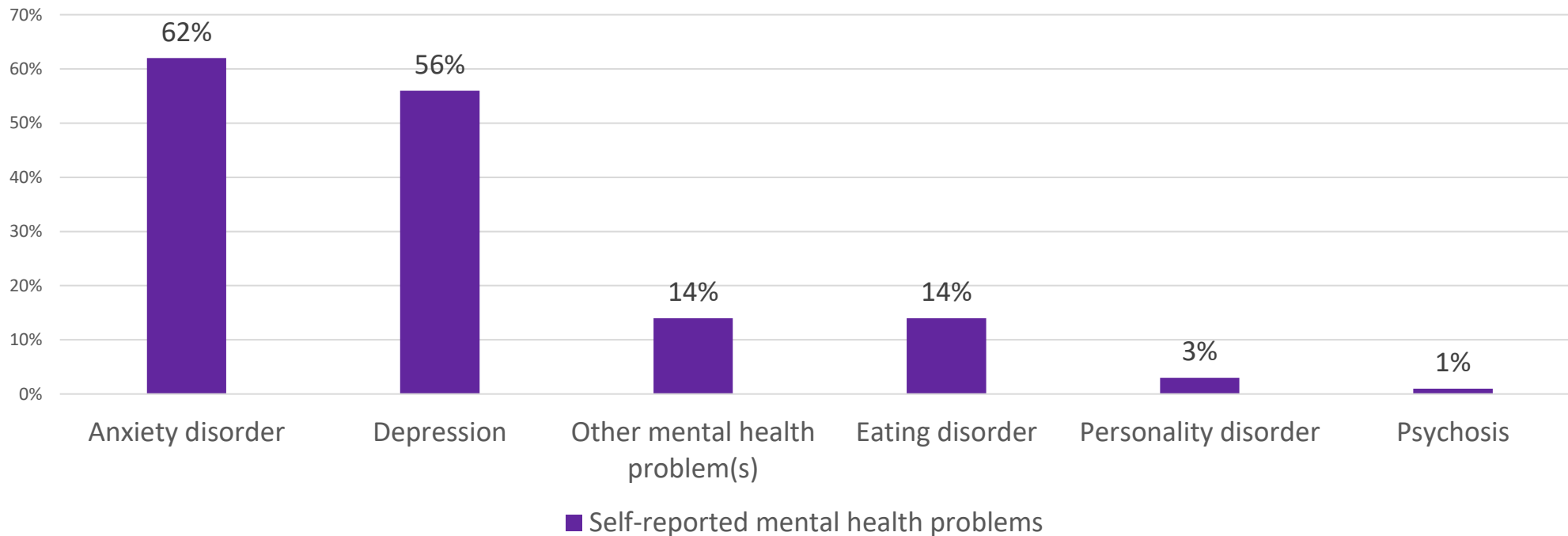


Students with mental health problems in Sweden



- Every third student (29%) experienced mental health problems (in Swedish society at large: 15%).
- Female students were more likely than males to indicate experiencing mental health problems, 33% compared to 22% of males.
- The women were also younger than the men and more often had a psychiatric diagnosis.
- A higher proportion among students with a Swedish background reported mental health problems compared to students with a foreign background.

Distribution of self-reported mental health problems



- 60 percent of students who experienced mental health problems indicated limitations in their studies.

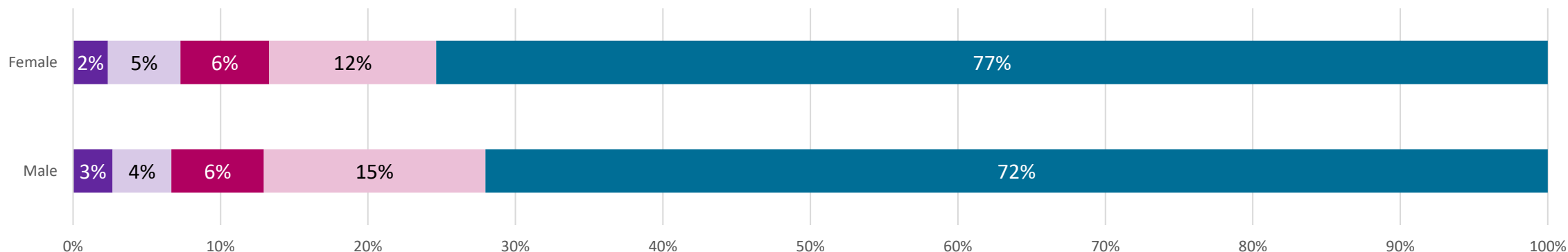
Comments on Support to overcome limitations in their studies due to impairment

- The support for the students often from teachers - "driving spirits".
- Some students who would like support found the path to the support too difficult.
- Uncertainty about what support that is available.
- A medical certificate is often required.
- Ambiguities between the role of student health and the role of primary care.

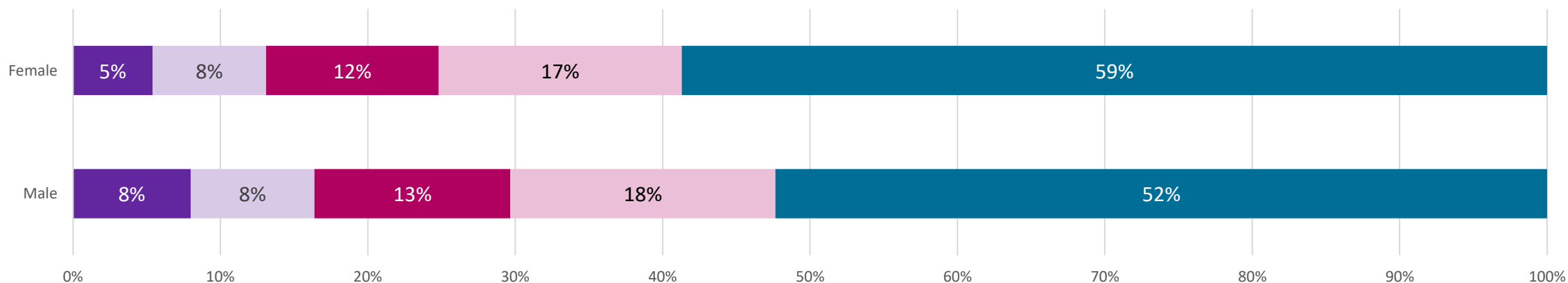
From January 2024, portal for student health: [In English - Studenthälsa \(studenthalsa.se\)](https://studenthalsa.se)

I am seriously thinking of completely abandoning my higher education studies

No mental health problem



Mental health problem



Strongly agree Agree Neither nor Do not agree Do not agree at all

Thank you!

www.uhr.se

erica.finnerman@uhr.se

jari.rusanen@uhr.se

sofia.scholler@uhr.se

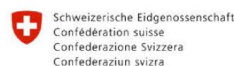
Discrimination in the context of higher education

Cordelia Menz, IHS
EUROSTUDENT Talks
June 13th 2024



Discrimination
in the
context
of higher
education

Consortium members



Funded with the support of all participating countries. Co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and the following bodies:



Funders are not responsible for the content.



Or use
[www.eurostudent.eu/
publications](http://www.eurostudent.eu/publications)

Guiding questions



- How prevalent are discrimination experiences within the context of higher education?
- Do students feel safe on the premises of their HEIs and in their neighbourhoods?
- Do specific groups report more discrimination experiences?

Discrimination experiences



Or use
www.eurostudent.eu/
publications

M4.2. Have you ever felt discriminated against in the context of your studies due to your ...

Multiple answers possible

	Yes, by fellow students	Yes, by teaching staff	Yes, by other university staff	No
... skin colour?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... ancestry/nationality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... religion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... gender?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... sexuality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... age?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... weight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... impairment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... mental health?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... income?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... parents' education?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>

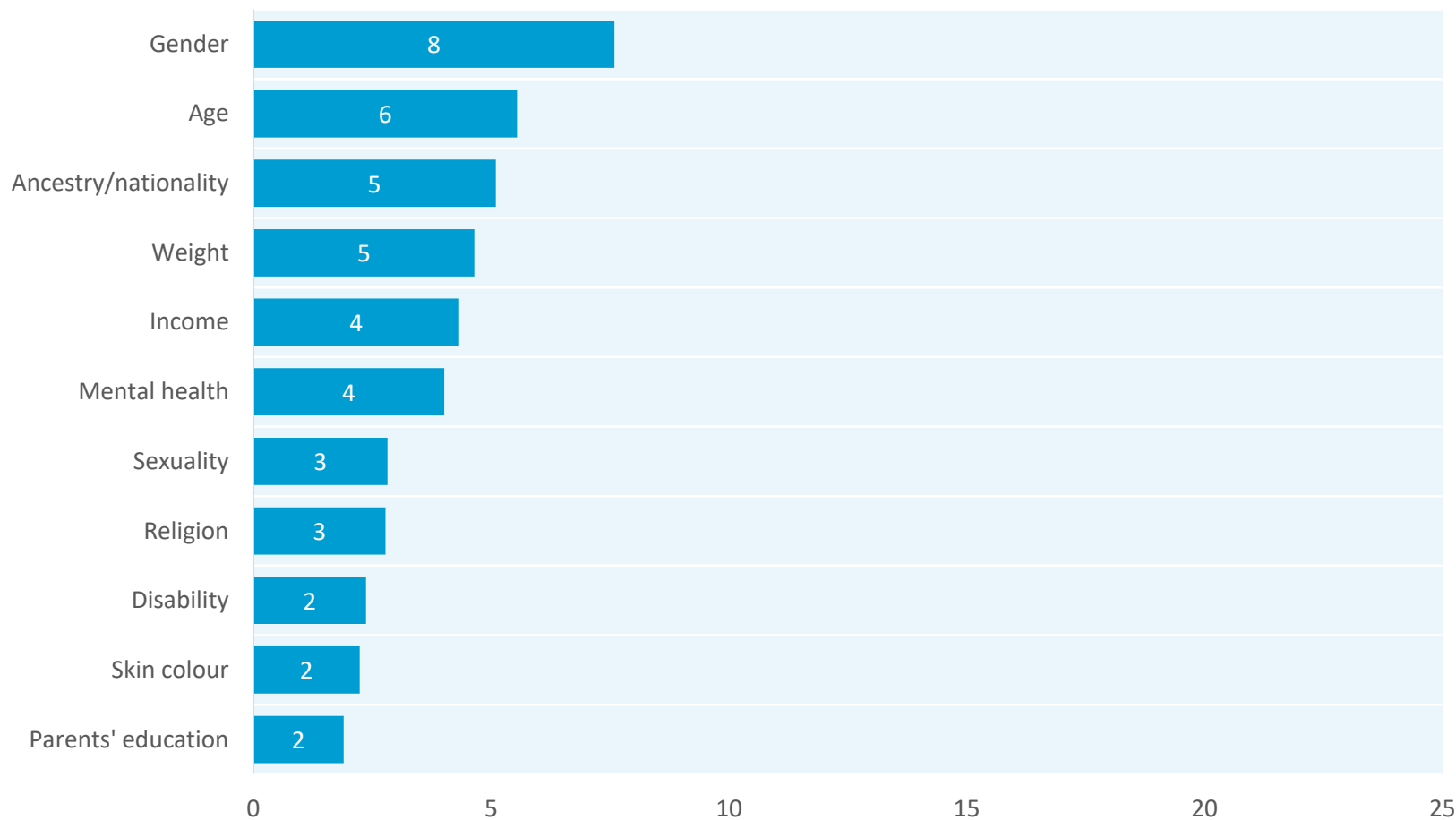
M4.1. How safe do you feel in the dark walking alone ...

	Very safe				Very unsafe
... in your neighbourhood?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... on the premises of your higher education institution?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

M4.3. In the context of your studies: Because of who you are, have you ...

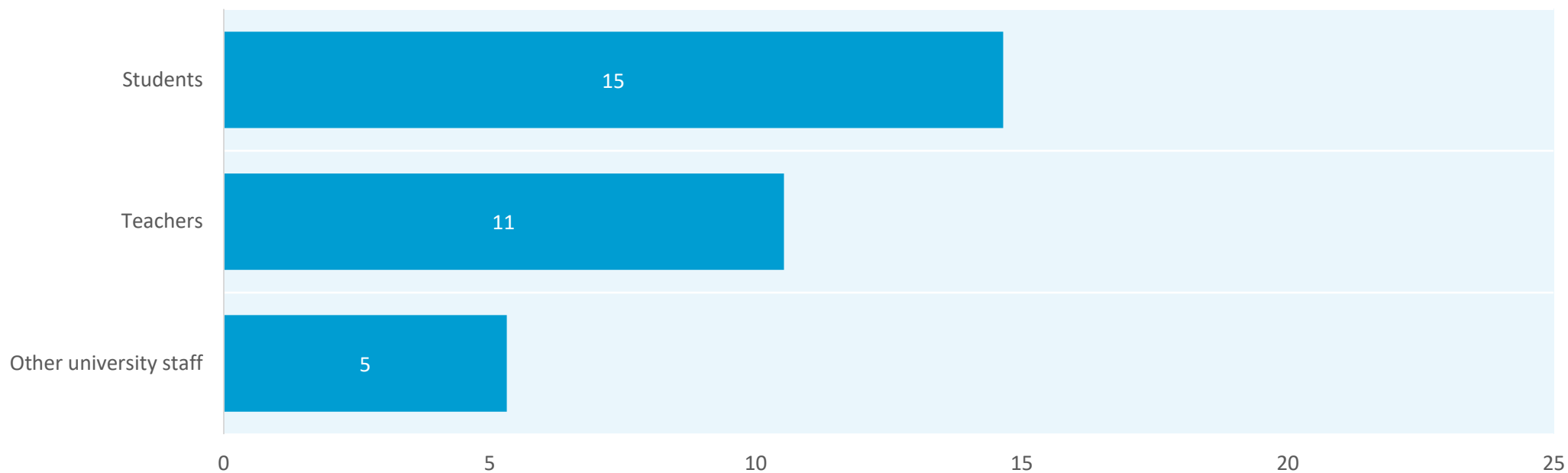
	Yes, many times in the past year	Yes, once or twice in the past year	Yes, but not in the past year	Never
... heard, seen, or read others joking about or laughing at you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... been treated as if you are unfriendly, unhelpful, or rude?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... been called names or heard/seen your identity used as an insult?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... been treated as if others are afraid of you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... been stared or pointed at?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... been told that you should think, act, or look more like others?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... heard that you or people like you don't belong?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... been asked inappropriate, offensive, or overly personal questions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... been treated as if you are less smart or capable than others?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... exposed to unwanted sexual attention (i.e. comments, unwanted physical touching or kisses)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... been subjected to physical violence?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

M4.2 Felt discriminated against due to ...



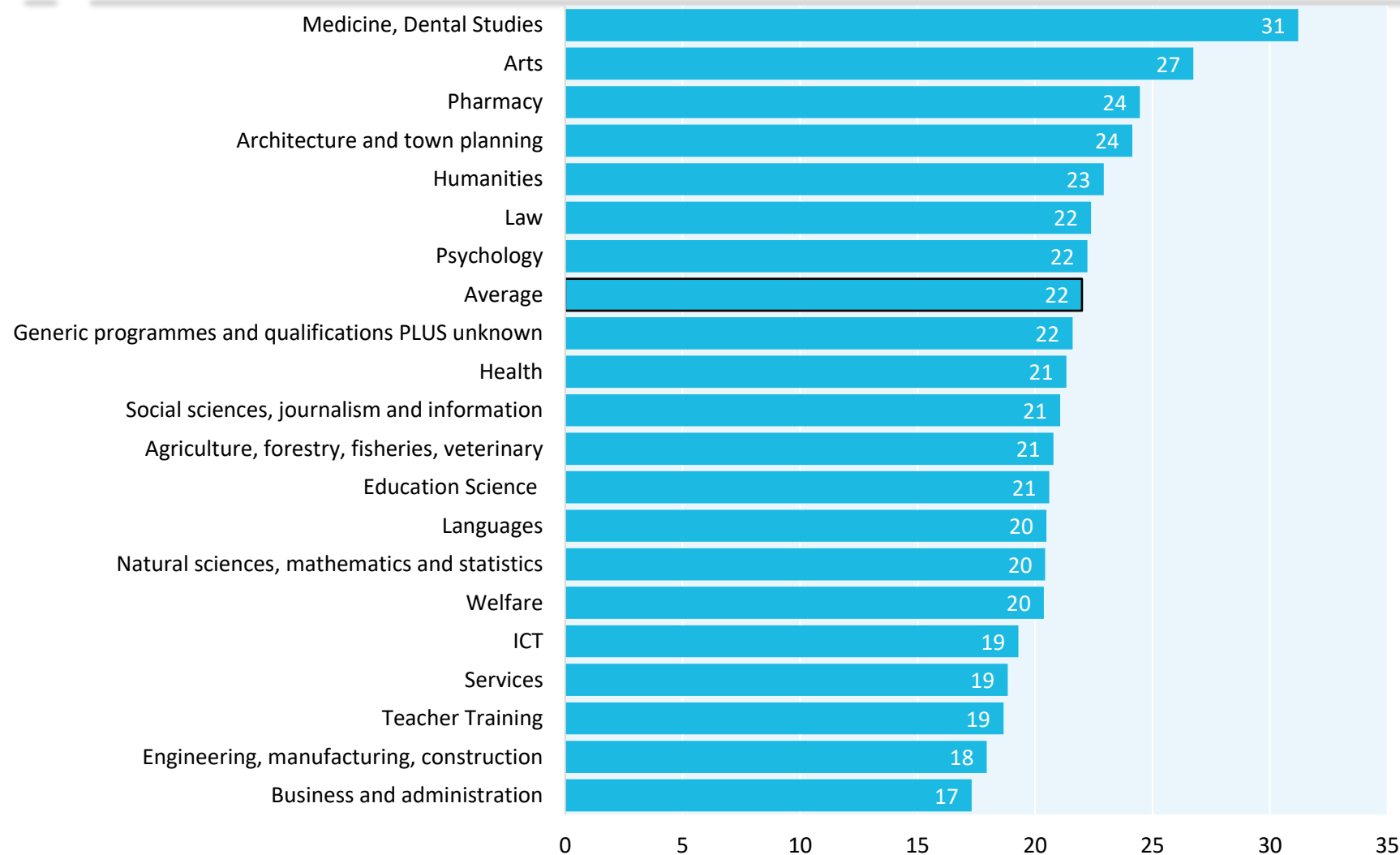
Analysis based on 22 countries

M4.2 Felt discriminated by ...



Analysis based on 22 countries

M4.2 Discrimination experiences within study fields



Analysis based on 22 countries

M4.2 Discrimination experiences within study fields



	Highest share	Lowest share	Ratio high vs. low
AT	43 % Architecture	22 % Health	2.0
AZ	23 % Humanities	7 % Agriculture	3.3
CZ	39 % Medicine	11 % Welfare	3.5
DK	39 % Law	17 % Education Science	2.3
EE	38 % Architecture	15 % Services	2.5
FI	28 % Humanities	11 % ICT	2.5
FR	20 % Architecture	10 % Health	2.0
GE	31 % Health	7 % Agriculture	4.4
HR	36 % Education Science	14 % Services	2.6
HU	28 % Medicine	14 % Humanities	2.0
IE	38 % Law	19 % Business	2.0

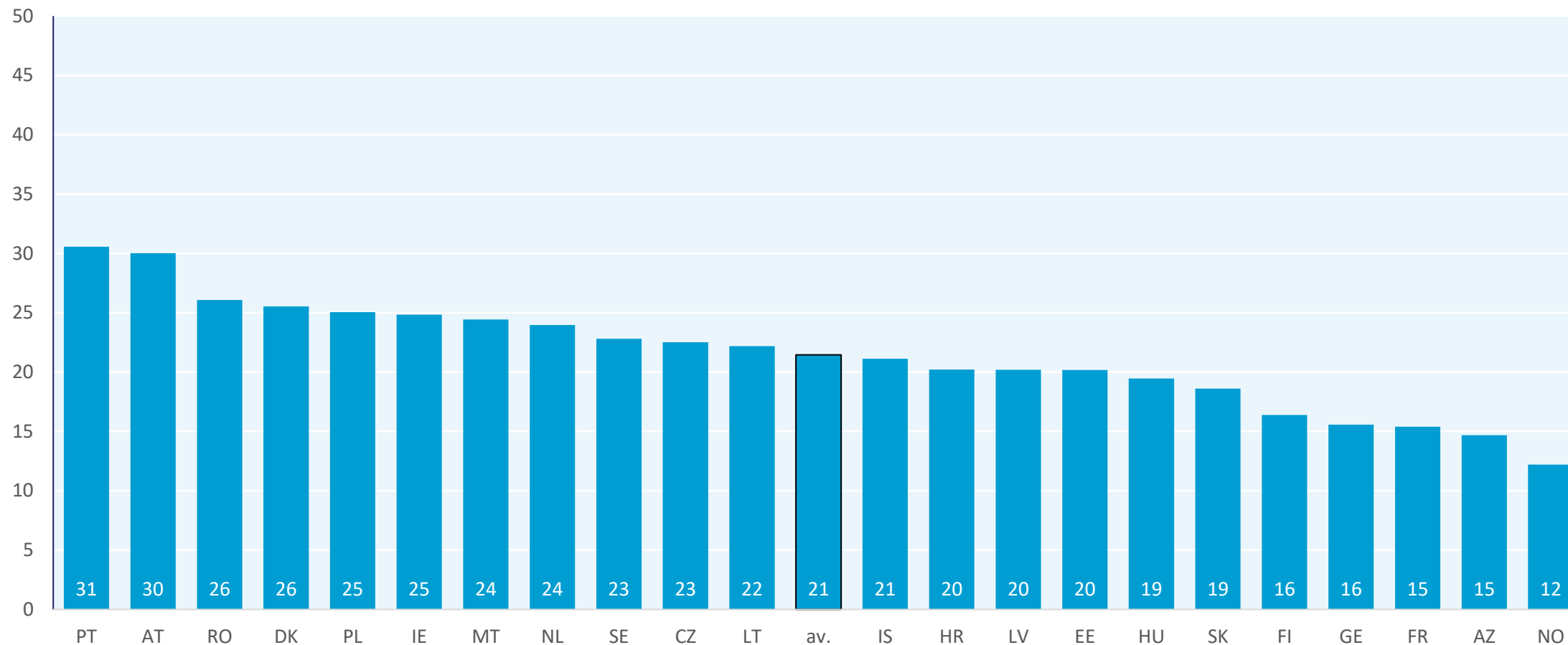
	Highest share	Lowest share	Ratio high vs. low
IS	36 % Arts	15 % Teacher Training	2.4
LT	46 % Medicine	15 % Business	3.1
LV	32 % Pharmacy	12 % Teacher Training	2.7
MT	41 % Engineering	20 % Education Science	2.1
NL	34 % Arts	19 % Pharmacy	1.8
NO	24 % Architecture	8 % Education Science	3.0
PL	45 % Medicine	17 % Teacher Training	2.6
PT	42 % Architecture	24 % Pharmacy	1.8
RO	37 % Arts	22 % Social Sciences	1.7
SE	40 % Medicine	16 % Education Science	2.5
SK	39 % Pharmacy	14 % Teacher Training	2.8

Focus of presentation

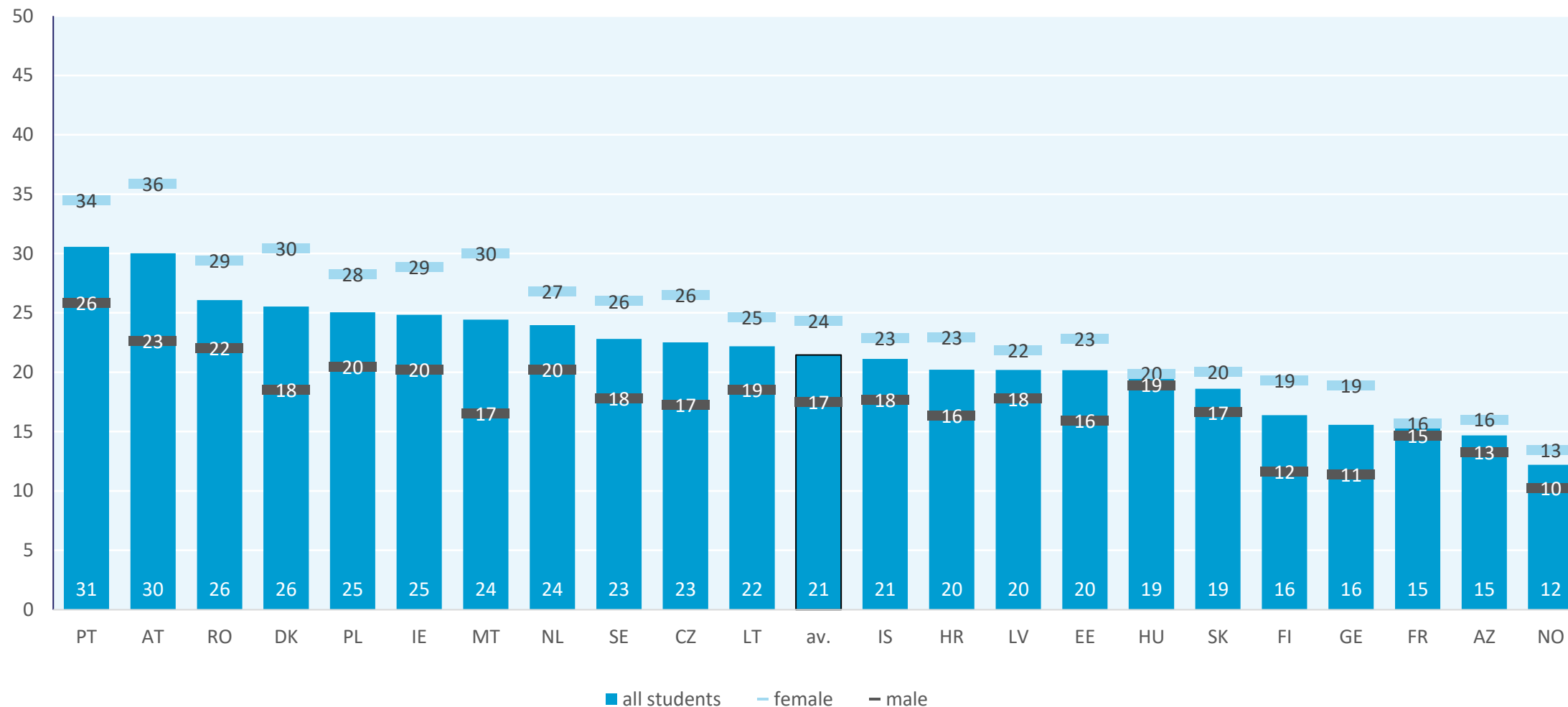


- Data presented separately for each country
- Focus on **all students** & two focus groups with importance for the higher education context and regarding discrimination experiences:
 - **Gender (female students)**
 - **Disability (students with disabilities limiting them in their studies)**

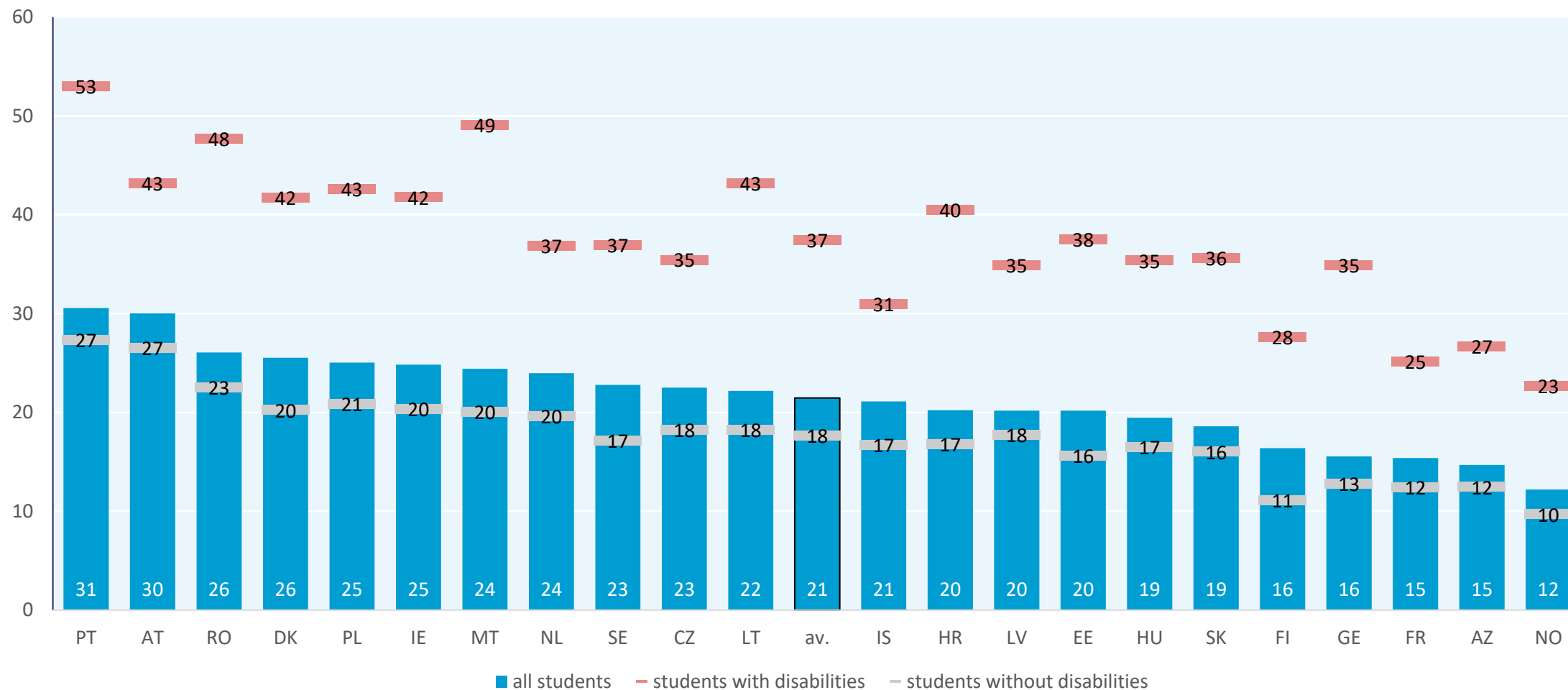
M4.2 Students experiencing (any type of) discrimination



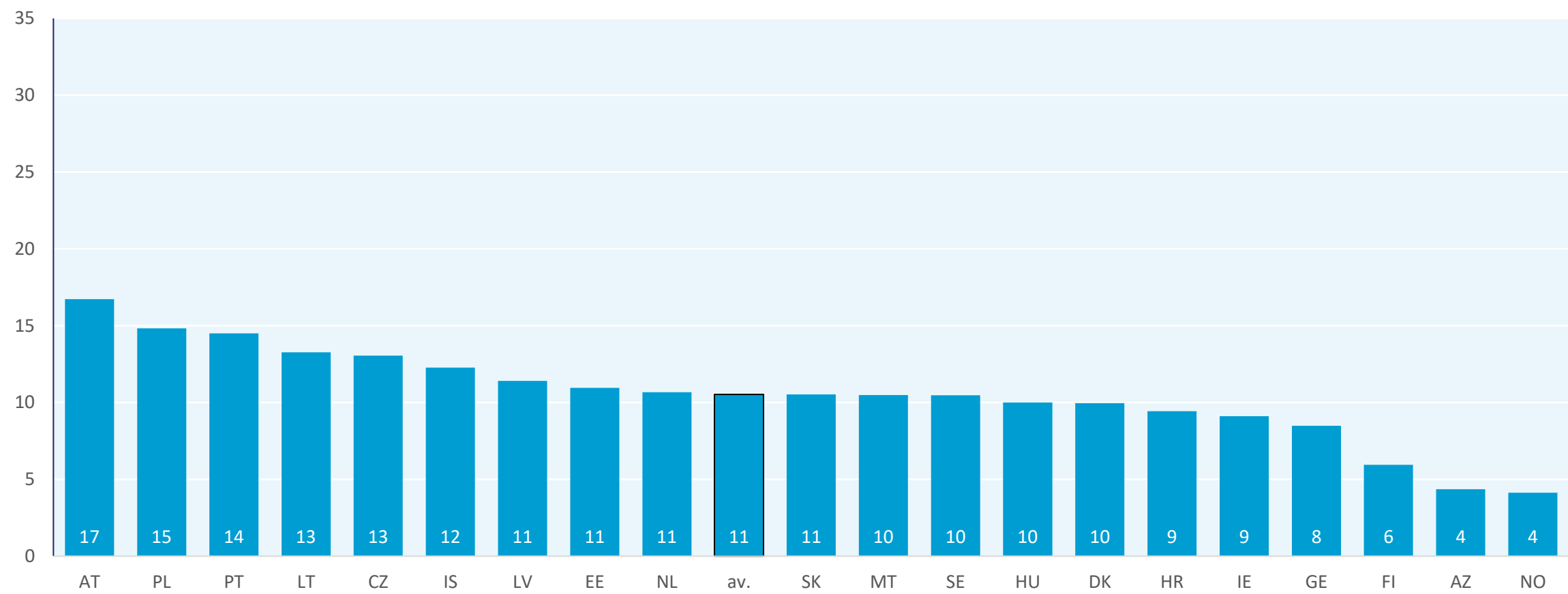
M4.2 Students experiencing (any type of) discrimination



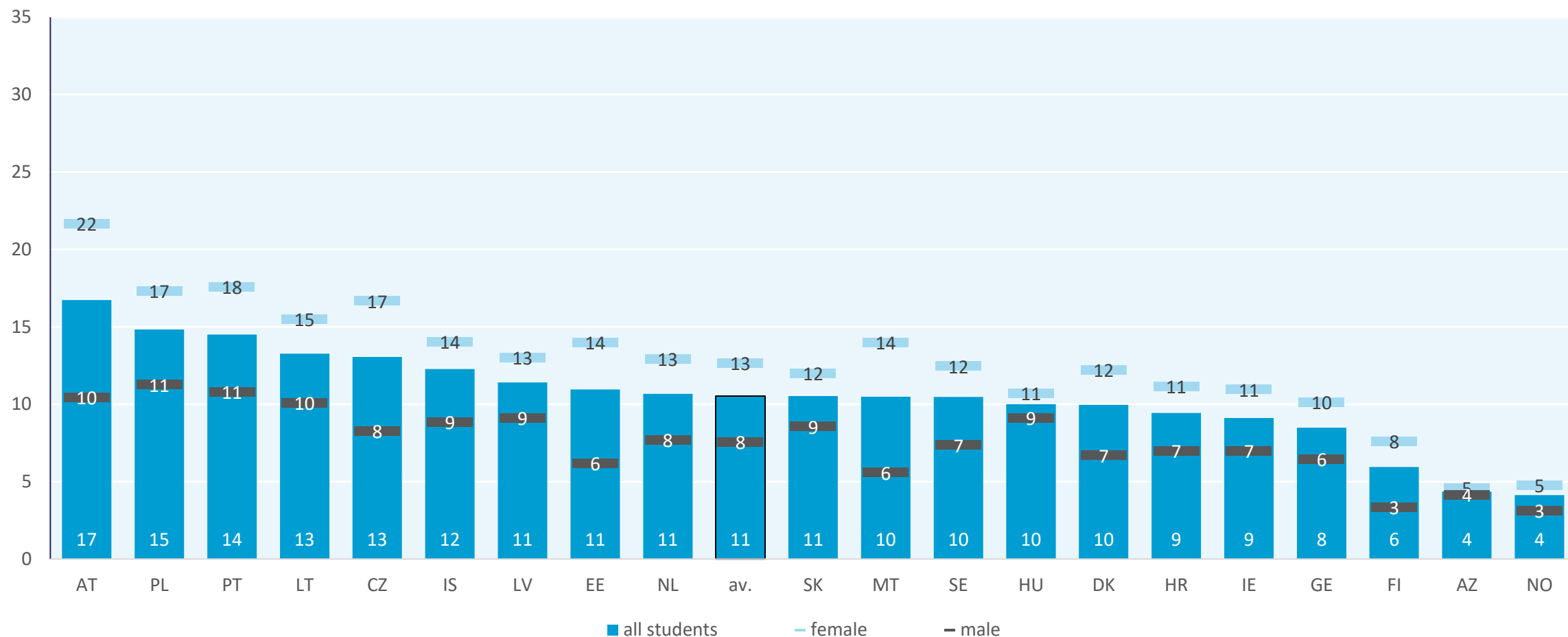
M4.2 Students experiencing (any type of) discrimination



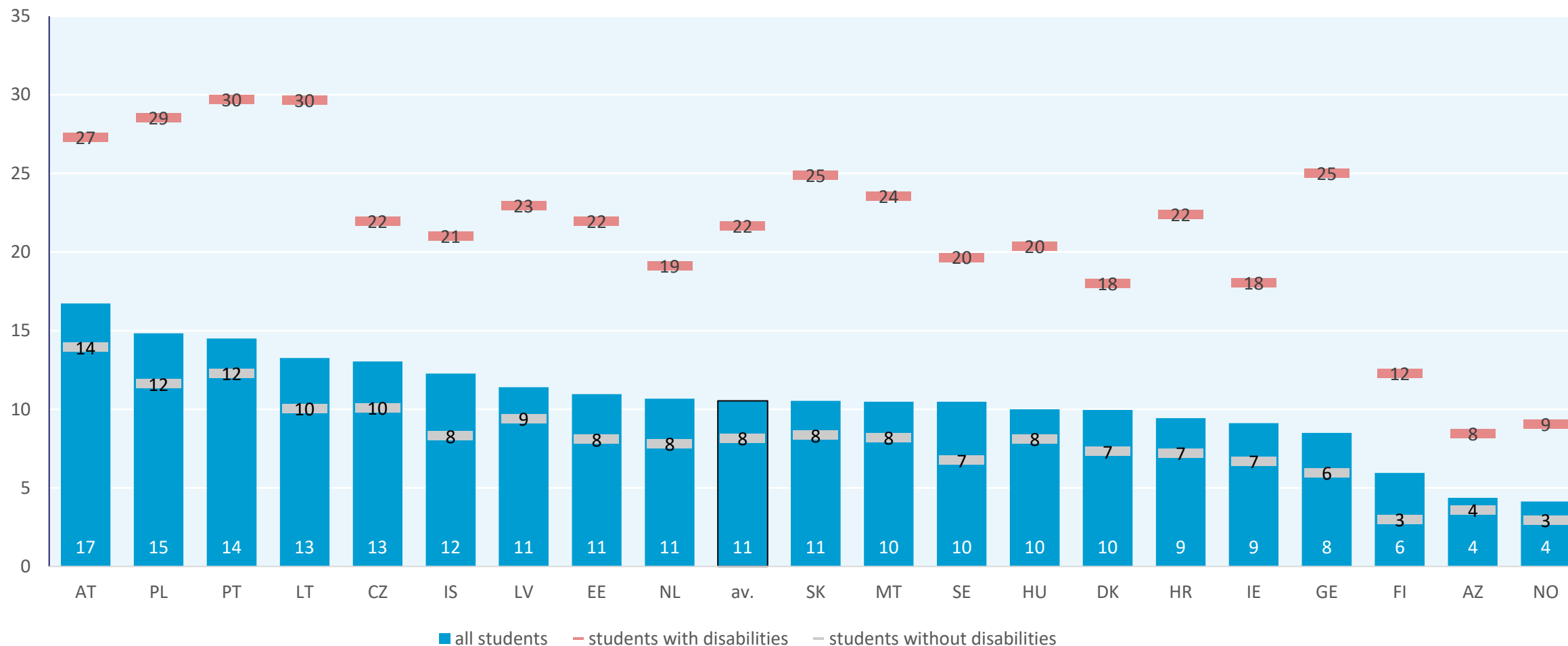
M4.2 (Any type of) discrimination by teaching staff



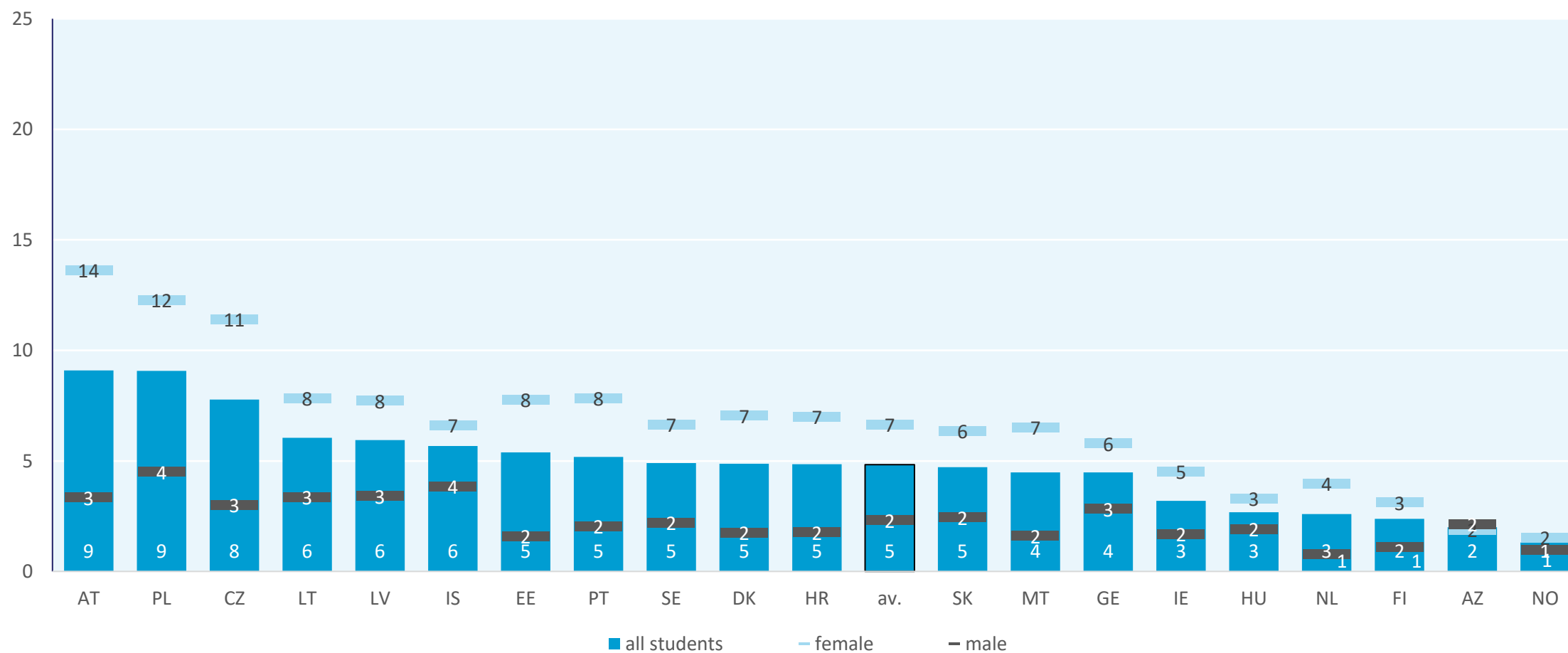
M4.2 (Any type of) discrimination by teaching staff



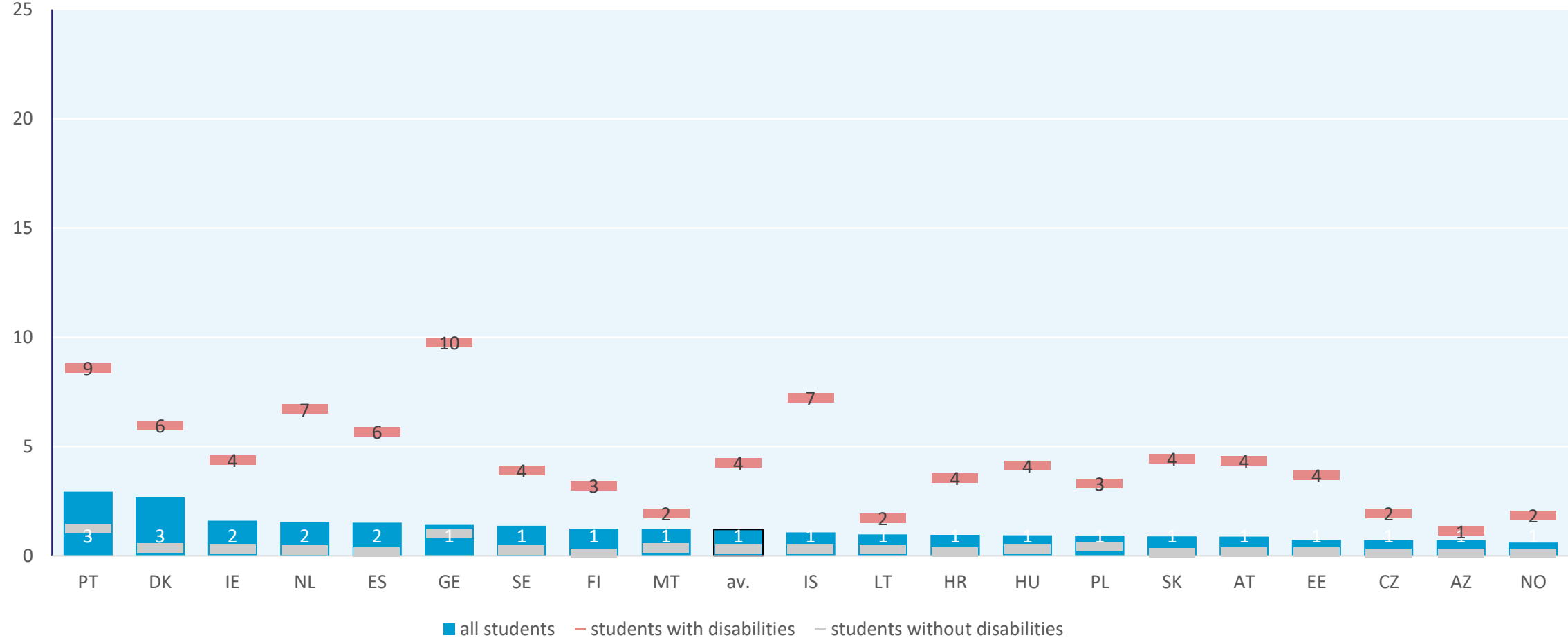
M4.2 (Any type of) discrimination by teaching staff



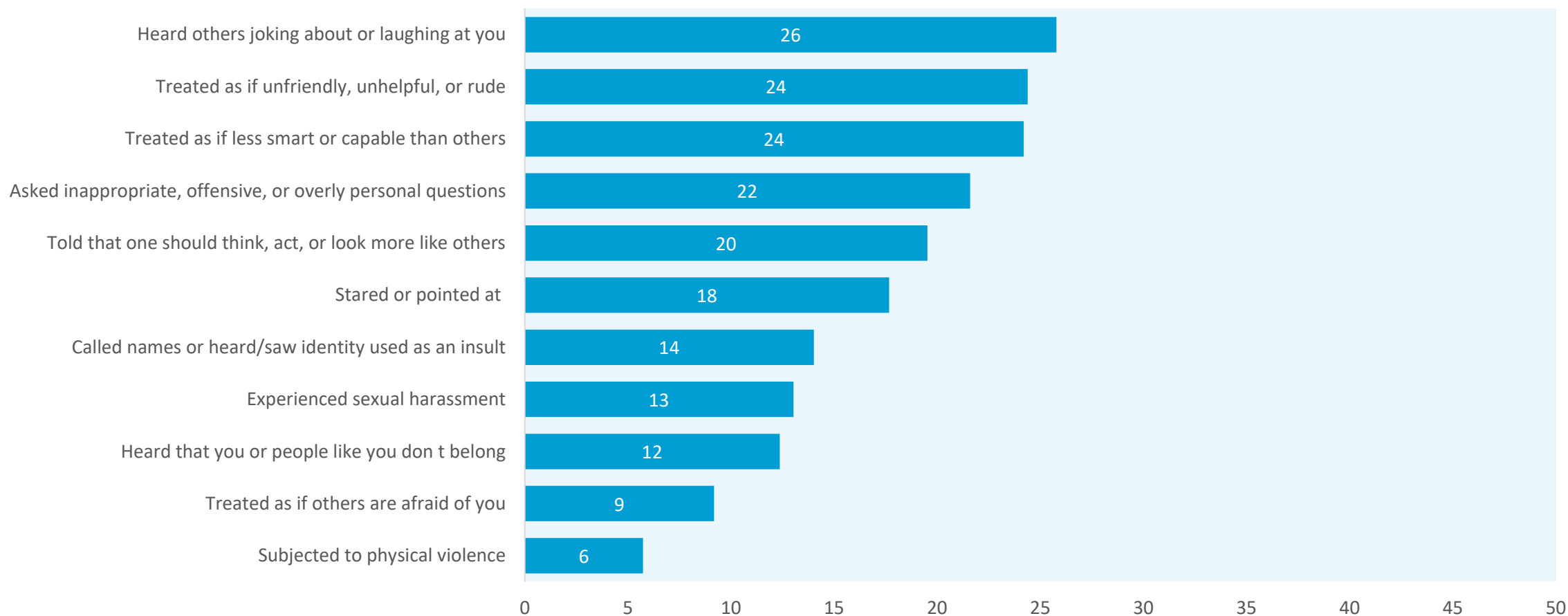
M4.2 Discrimination due to gender by teaching staff



M4.2 Discrimination due to disability by teaching staff

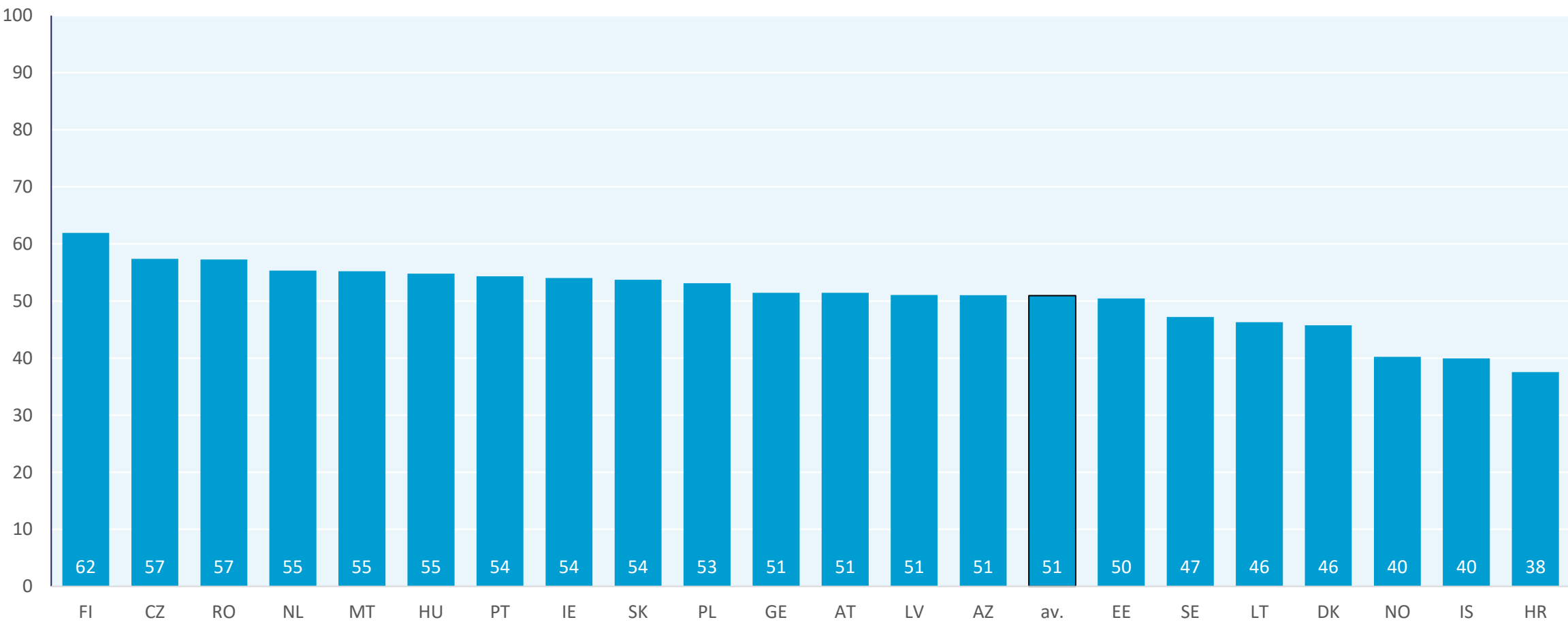


M4.3 Hostile ad hominem behaviour

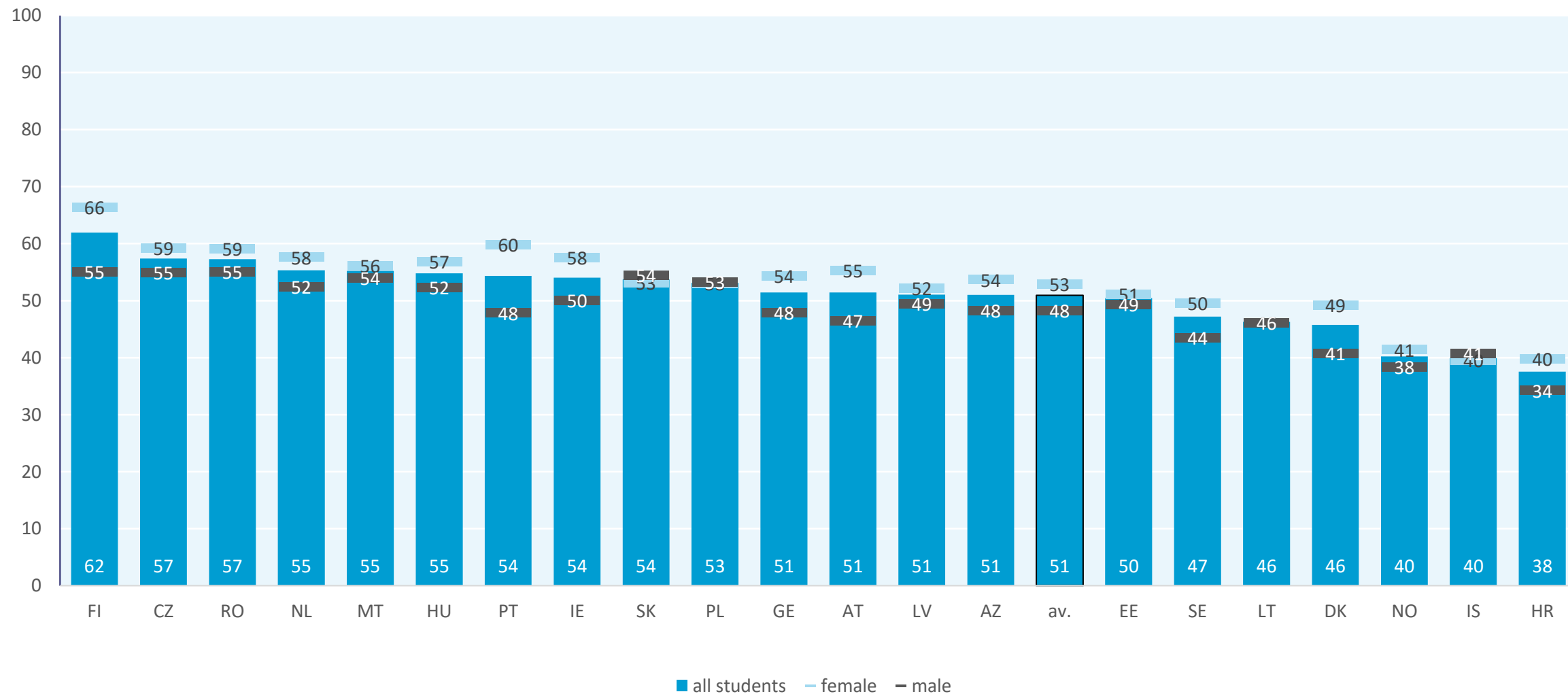


Analysis based on 21 countries

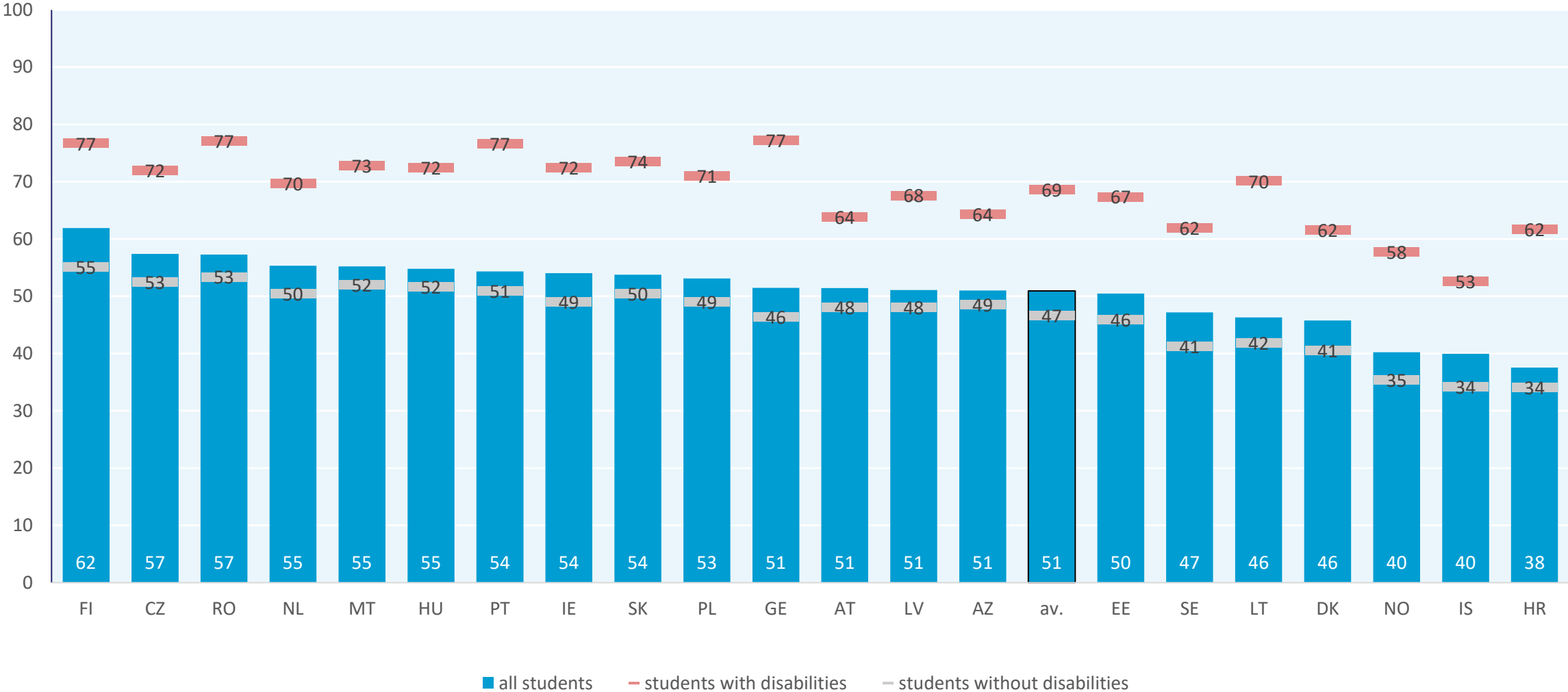
M4.3 Experienced (any type of) hostile ad hominem behaviour



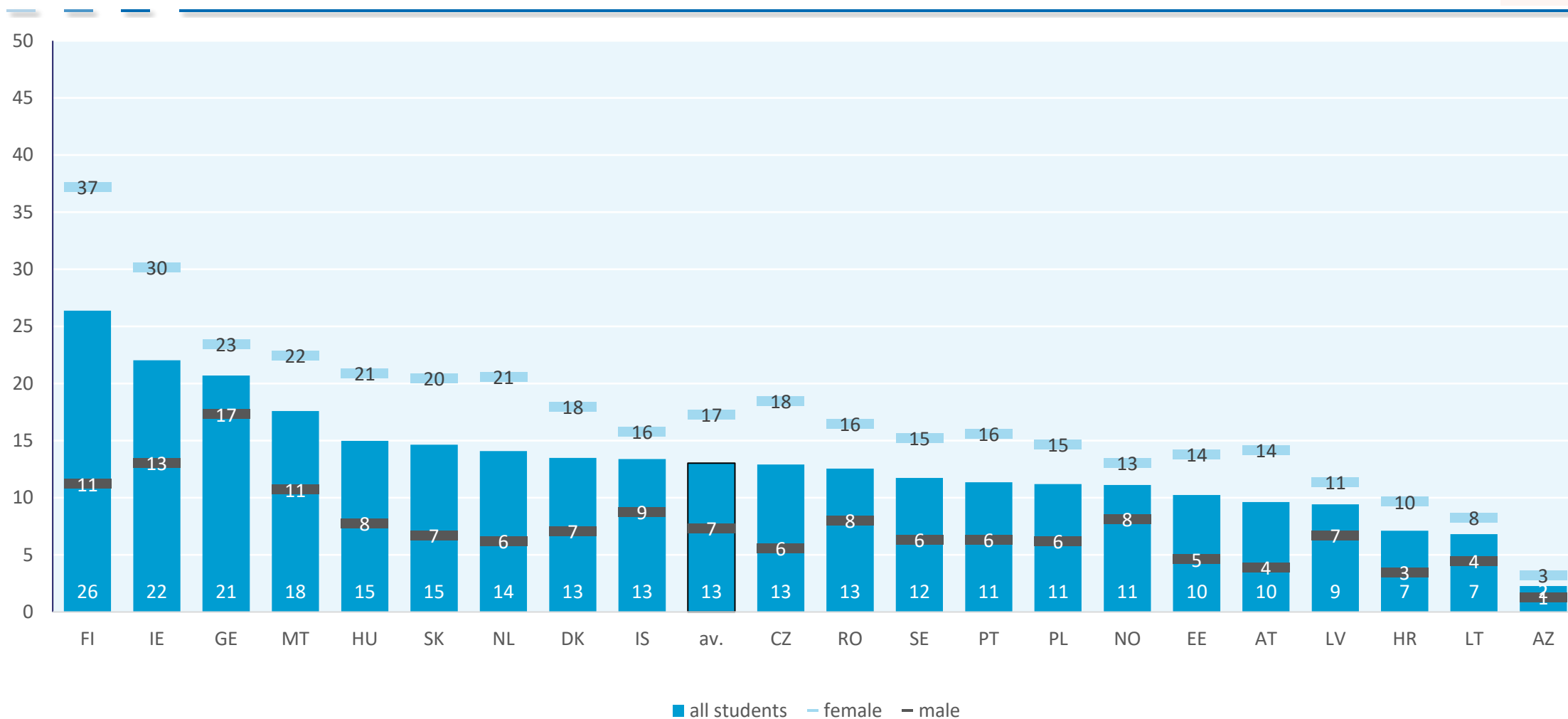
M4.3 Experienced (any type of) hostile ad hominem behaviour



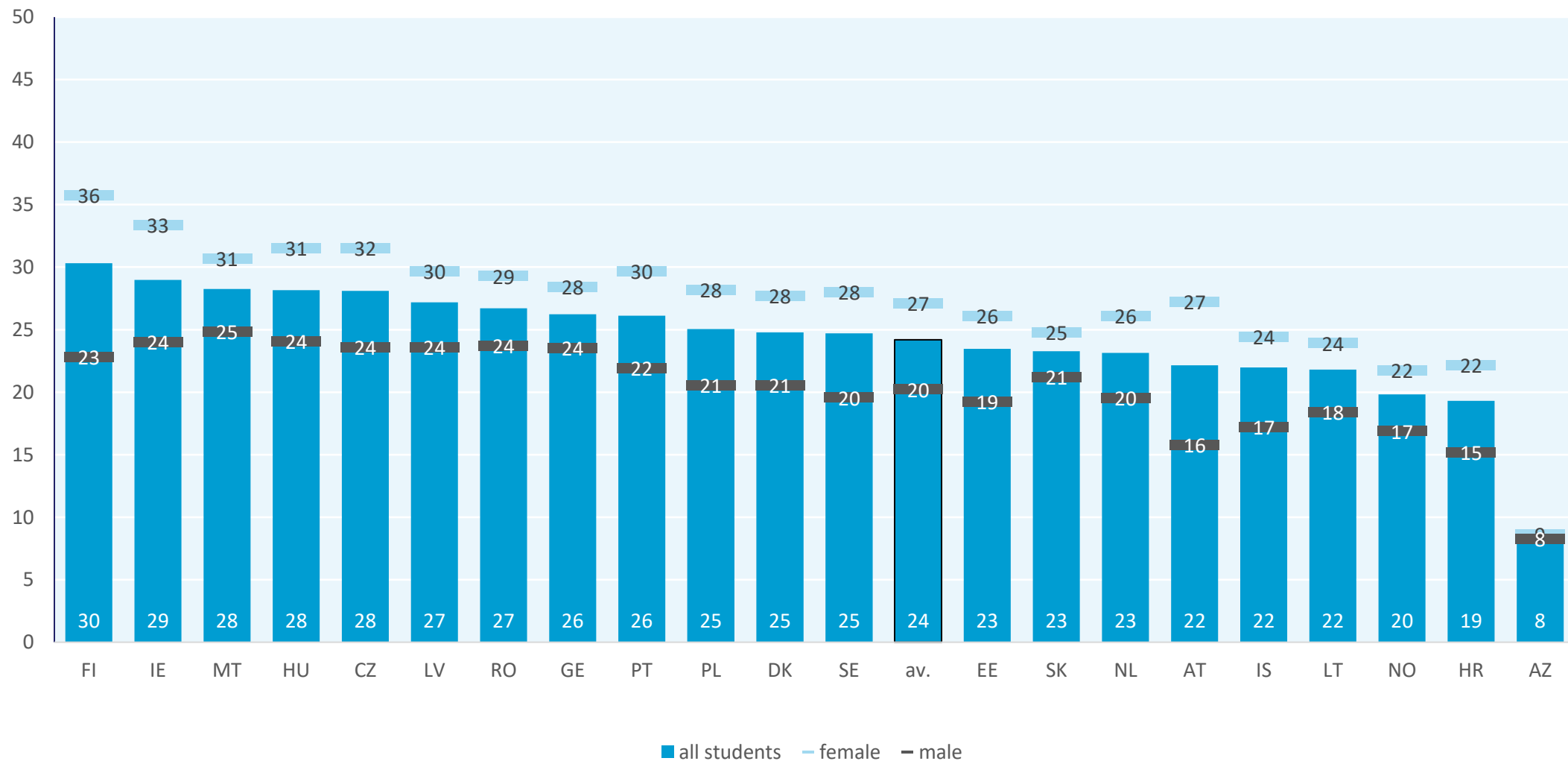
M4.3 Experienced (any type of) hostile ad hominem behaviour



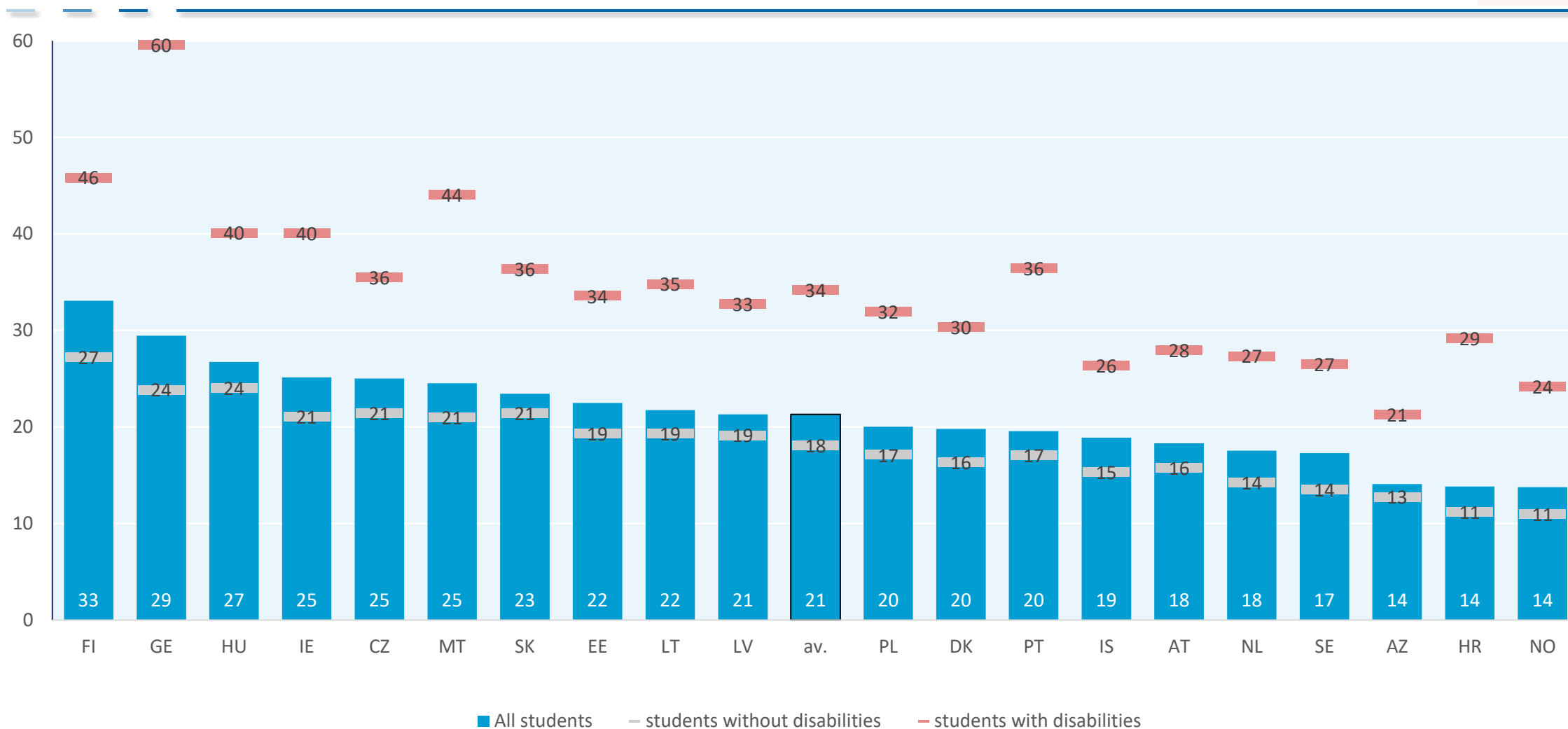
M4.3 Sexual harassment



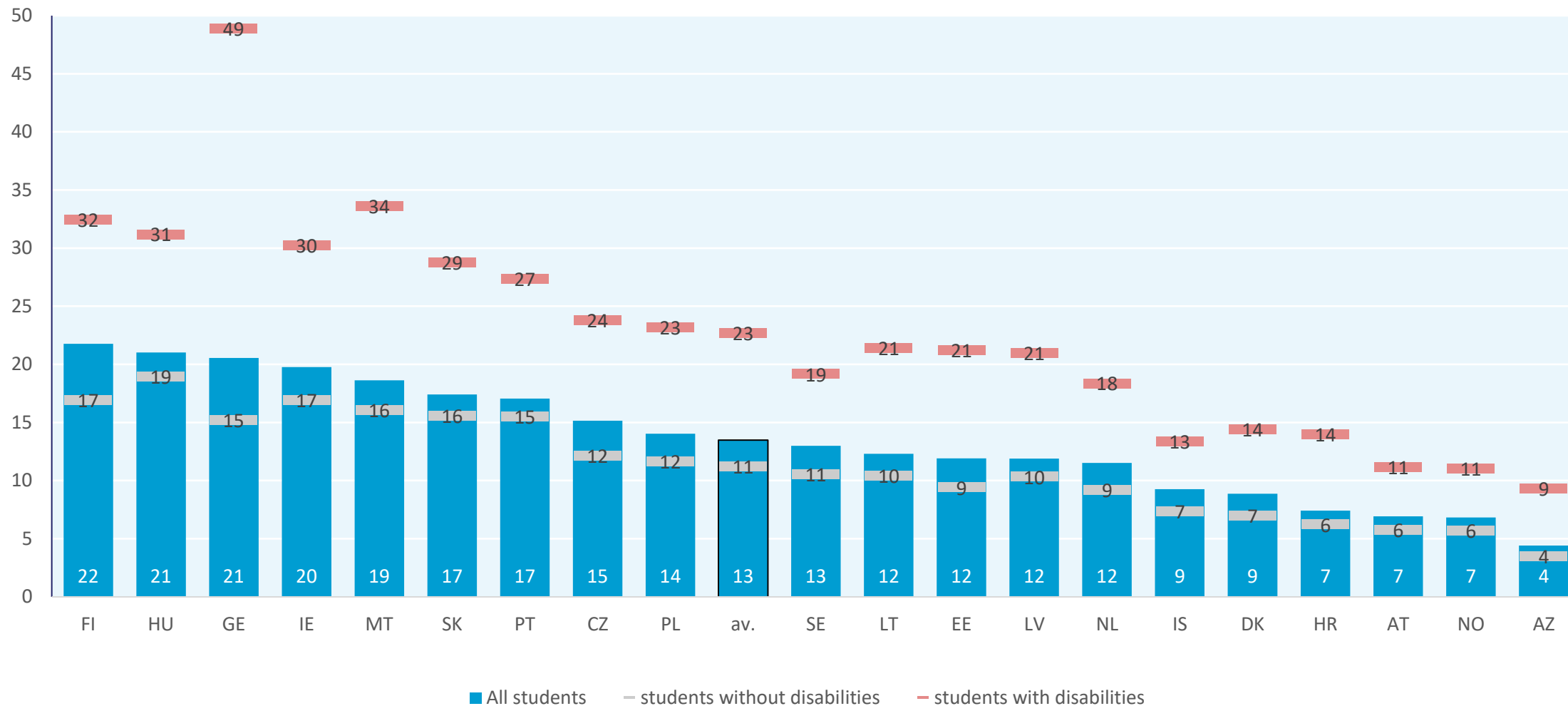
M4.3 Treated as less smart or capable than others



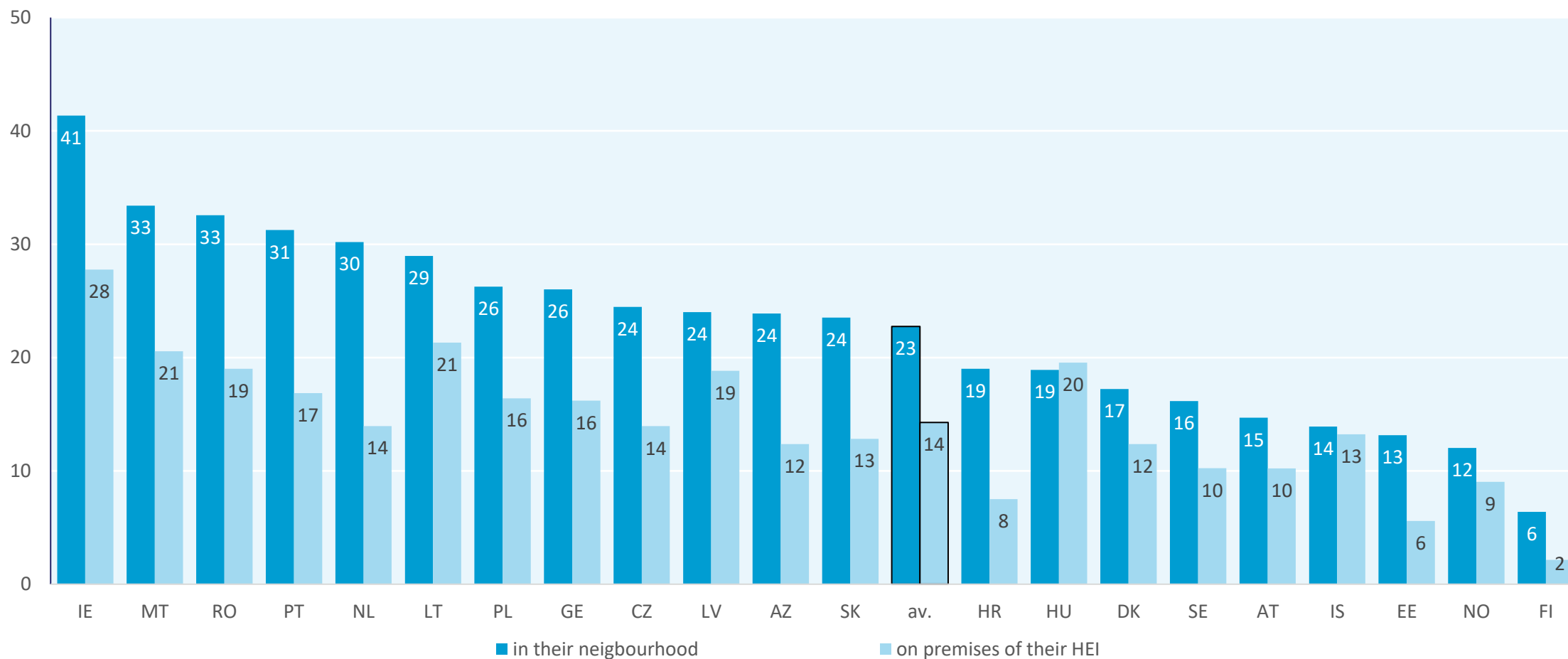
M4.3 Been asked inappropriate/overly personal questions



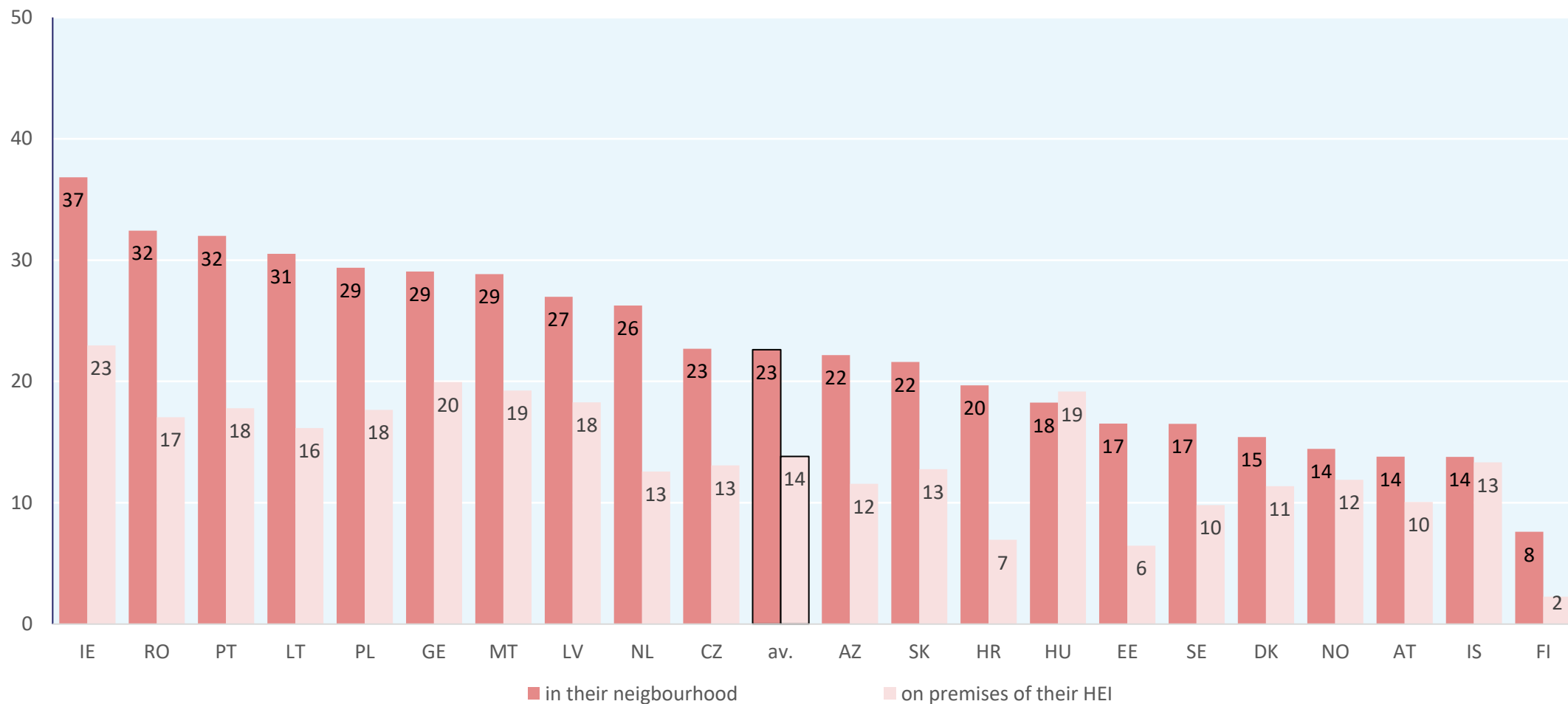
M4.3 Been called names or heard/saw someone using one's identity as an insult



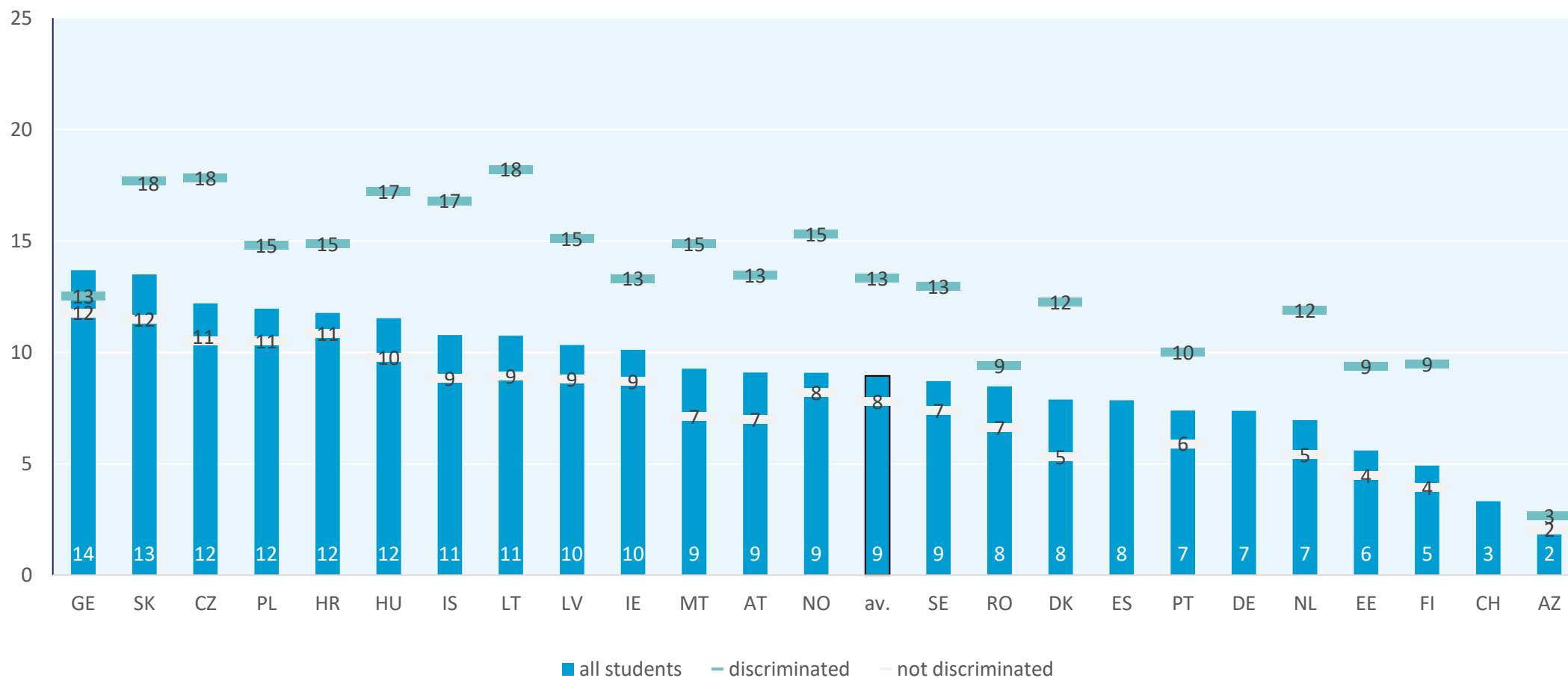
M4.1 Female students: feeling unsafe walking alone in the dark



M4.1 Students with disabilities: feeling unsafe walking alone in the dark



Serious thoughts of completely abandoning higher education studies





- How prevalent are discrimination experiences within the context of higher education?
 - Too widespread! Definitely a topic worthwhile to focus at
- Do students feel safe on the premises of their HEIs and in their neighbourhoods?
 - Many students do; improvement still needed
- Do specific groups report more discrimination experiences?
 - Unfortunately, yes.



- Information hidden in aggregated data – have a thorough look at your national data!
- No information on whether students know about and use anti-discrimination services, if available
- Policymakers need to encourage institutions to provide information and contact points; maybe customised training courses for teaching staff

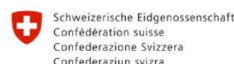
Thank you for your attention!

Cordelia Menz, IHS
EUROSTUDENT Talks
June 13th 2024



Discrimination in the context of higher education

Consortium members



Funded with the support of all participating countries. Co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and the following bodies:



Funders are not responsible for the content.



Or use
[www.eurostudent.eu/
publications](http://www.eurostudent.eu/publications)